

REMARKS

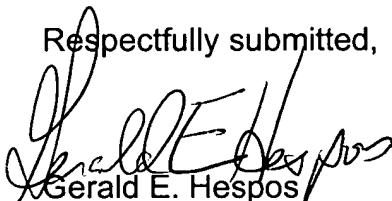
Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is requested.

Claims 1-20 remain in the application. Claims 4, 6 and 8-11 have been amended to eliminate the multiple dependency that had existed in those claims and to thereby avoid the significant U.S. government surcharges for applications with multiple dependent claims. New claims 12-20 have been added to approximate the coverage that was intended by the original multiple dependent claims.

The specification also has been amended to insert the section headings required by the United States Patent and Trademark Office. Additionally, the Abstract has been amended into a single paragraph and without objectionable terms such as "invention" and "comprises".

Early and favorable action on the application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Gerald E. Hespos

Atty. Reg. No. 30,066
Customer No. 001218
CASELLA & HESPOS LLP
274 Madison Avenue - Suite 1703
New York, NY 10016
Tel. (212) 725-2450
Fax (21) 725-2452

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A purification method employs nanofiltration of an aqueous solution containing one or several sugars, multivalent cations, monovalent metal cations, monovalent anions and multivalent inorganic anions and/or organic acid anions. The method includes replacement of at least a part of said multivalent cations and/or said multivalent inorganic anions and organic acid anions respectively by monovalent metal cations and/or monovalent anions to produce a solution. Nanofiltration of the solution is carried out to obtain a retentate, and at least part of the retentate is subject to crystallization.